



Advancing Professionally to Achieve Your Ambitions



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Some Key Questions

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- What are your ambitions?
- What does a successful technical career look like?
- What kinds of choices lead to success?
- What are the most important factors that facilitate success in science/engineering?
- How can you overcome or avoid barriers?
- How can you find (or make) a great mentor?



Three Dimensions to Success

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- Recognition: advancement, peer respect, publications, citations, job offers, invitations, funding success...
 - Impact on Society: improvement to world, country, society, science, engineering,...
 - Individual/self: fulfilled passion, independence, life balance, balance between effort & rewards
- Importance of different dimensions depends on age, experience, & success



Career Phases and Issues

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- **Launching a technical career**
 - Choosing a specialty, and career path
 - Setting near-term and long-range goals
 - Obtaining position/funding; surviving peer review process
 - Handling family responsibilities
- **Gaining reputation and visibility**
 - Finding/making the best mentors and opportunities
 - Getting and succeeding in important assignments
 - Assessing progress and adjusting goals
- **Winning the success and recognition you deserve**
 - Knowing/changing ‘the game;’ rewards and promotions
 - Joining the power structure



Alternative Technical Career Paths

- **Academia:** university level, school level; teaching, research, administration
- **Industry:** research, manufacturing, operations, sales, management
- **Government:** research, policy, regulations, politics, management
- **Others:** writing, finance, medicine, law, movies...
- **Education:** Doctorate, lesser degrees



Important Factors for Advancing Professionally and Achieving Success

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- **Career goals & strategy to achieve them**
- **Choice of university**
- **Good supervisor(s)/mentor(s): providing funding, contacts, encouragement, advocacy**
- **Good assignments & progressively responsible positions**
- **Strong recommendations from highly regarded people**
- **Networking: in institution, country, internationally**
- **Resourcefulness, adaptability, persistence, crisis management (without skipping a beat)**



Steps to Achieve Your Ambitions

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- **Have confidence in yourself!**
- **Decide your career goals & strategy**
 - Be flexible to exploit best opportunities
 - Have a near-term goal and a longer-term goal
- **Find/make good supervisor(s)/mentor(s)**
 - Change if not good: you deserve the best!
 - Learn the “rules of the game” for funding and advancement: play them or change them
- **Seek out the best people & learn from them**
- **Ask for what you need**



Steps to Achieve Your Ambitions (cont.)

- **Network with other women to help each other**
- **Volunteer for important assignments**
- **Promise a lot and deliver more**
- **Get famous—write a book or chapter, get on TV....**
- **Give talk(s), serve on important committees, make sure people know you are available**
- **Help others advance: talk invitations, mentoring, recruiting,.....**



Summary

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**Have Confidence in Yourself,
Have Fun,
and Always Deliver!**

